



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: April 14, 2011 (revised April 25, 2011)

TO: All Library Staff

FROM: Deborah L. Barrow, Library Director

SUBJECT: Budget Proposal for FY 2012

The City of San Diego, like cities across the country, continues to face a severe budget shortfall due to the economy and on-going financial obligations. Today the Mayor held a press conference and the Mayor's Office posted the [Proposed Budget for FY2012](#) on the website. At the Mayor's press conference held on April 14, the Library budget was discussed. The proposed budget reduces the Library budget by \$7.4 million (gross reduction) resulting in a year-over-year (adopted 2011 compared to proposed 2012) proposed reduction to the Library budget of \$3.9 million. It includes a reduction of 76.19 FTE positions in the Library Department, some of which may be mitigated by some vacancies which have been kept unfilled in anticipation of budget reductions. The proposal reduces branch library hours from 36 to an average of 18.5 hours per week.

If this proposal is implemented, beginning July 2011 branch libraries would be paired with a schedule of either Tuesday and Thursday or Wednesday and Friday, with alternating Saturdays. The Central Library would be open Monday through Friday, closed Saturday, and open on Sunday.

As most of you are already aware, there have been past reductions to the City's budget and to the Library's budget. Over the past five years, the budget for the Library has been cut by approximately 22%. This year, as in years past, the City has to make very difficult choices in all departments, not just the Library, and it is not possible to sustain all services at current levels with the existing revenues and budget challenges.

Please remember that this is a *proposed* budget subject to Council review and approval. Budget decisions are not finalized until the Council adopts the budget. The Mayor plans to hold two public meetings as noted below:

- **Thursday, April 21, 2011, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**
Kearny High School Auditorium
7651 Wellington Way, San Diego, CA 92111

- **Thursday, April 28, 2011, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**
Joe and Vi Jacobs Center
404 Euclid Ave., San Diego, CA 92114

The Library's Budget is scheduled to be heard by the [City Council's Budget and Finance Committee](#) on May 5, 2011. The full Council will hear the Library's budget later in May. Please check the [Council Docket](#) for the latest information.

I realize that this information will be distressing to many staff members and library users. These are very difficult decisions made in light of limited resources. I have scheduled two meetings with **Library staff only** to discuss the budget implications for our department:

- **Wednesday, April 20, 2011, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**
Central Library Auditorium
- **Thursday, April 21, 2011, 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**
Mission Valley Branch Library

I am requesting that all supervisors be present at one of these meetings. Anyone else interested in attending should check with your supervisor. At these meetings we can talk about the proposal and the underlying reasons for it.

We know that our work is important to our communities and that library use increased to an all-time high in recent years. This is a clear indication that the Library is needed by our community members. Libraries are even more important to our users in these difficult times. While we cannot control the budget, we can control the quality of our work and our service to the community. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to provide the best service possible within our budget constraints.